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A photo of a man who police believe may have information about anti-Semitic graffiti.

Cops release photos in graffiti case

CRIME Photographs have been released by Calgary police of a man who may have information about a rash of anti-Semitic graffiti in the city's southeast this week.

Police located the video surveillance footage taken at the Chabad Lubavitch Centre in Woodbine.

The graffiti occurred Saturday and Sunday and appeared to target the Jewish community, according to police.

Police are asking anyone with information about the offences or the man in the photos to contact them.

METRO CALGARY

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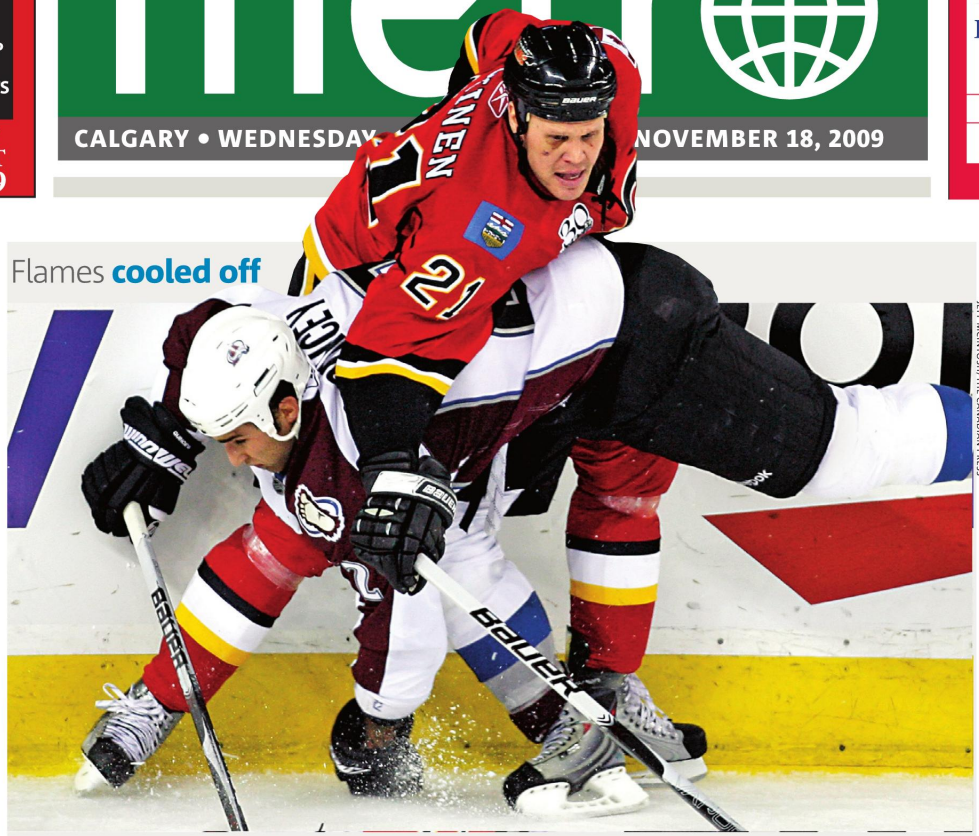

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colorado Avalanche Kyle Quincey gets hung up with Calgary Flame Olli Jokinen during second-period NHL hockey action in Calgary yesterday. The Avalanche beat the Flames 3-2. Story, page 16.

Three bridges remain

Local design concept among finalists for St. Patrick's Island

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Three St. Patrick's Island bridge design concepts are left standing after 35 global submissions were whittled down, according to Chris Ollenberger, Calgary Municipal Land Corp. president and CEO.

"It was a tough decision because each submission was compelling in its own way and these three designs are all respectful, elegant and functional, but also offer different attributes," Ollenberger said.

Calgary's very own company Halsall, partnered with RFR of Paris, France, was behind the only local submission to make it to the final three, though that didn't have any bearing on the finalists chosen, Ollenberger added.

"Each was chosen on its own merit and design. We wanted the bridge to be simple and elegant and not overwhelming and we accomplished that."

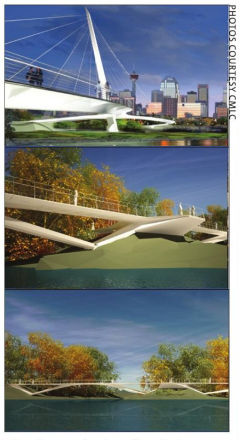
Calgarians were an integral part of choosing the three finalists as more than 2,000 had their say on the organization's website, and the contenders were then chosen by a 10-person committee.

Halsall spokesperson John Ford said they were honoured to be a part of the final three.

"We wanted to compliment the environment and the natural beauty of the areas there, and I think we accomplished that," he said of the design.

"We're very excited and we're going to pursue this aggressively and make sure we do our best."

The three finalists will be given $50,000 to advance the concept to the next level by the end of January. Ollenberger said each bridge would cost in the $25-million price range and estimates a bridge could be up by 2012.



PHOTOS COURTESY CMLC

The three design finalists.

Potential parking fine hike riles alderman

DARREN KRAUSE
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CPA In one alderman's eyes, it's a classic bait and switch.

Days after heralding a parking rate drop in the downtown, the Calgary Parking Authority will ask the city's land use, planning and transportation committee to approve a 25 per cent hike in the standard parking fine, from $40 to $50.

Ward 12 Ald. Ric McIver was fuming over the potential fine increase, after he said the CPA got "all the love" for touting a rate reduction.

"I think this is what builds cynicism in Calgarians ... and it's just the worst kind of public policy and the worst way to roll that public policy out," he said.

With 132,000 tickets projected for 2009, that could add $1.32 million to CPA coffers, after it noted a $1.4-million decline in revenue as a result of the parking rate drop.

McIver suggested the CPA be stripped of its power to make recommendations, something that could happen as the CPA is also in line for an independent strategic review in the coming weeks.

With the potential increase, only Vancouver would have a higher parking fine than Calgary.

The CPA refused comment on the increase.

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Local

Wind causes damage

Wind gusts reported as high as 80 kilometres per hour had Calgary fire crews hopping, as they responded to an unusually high number of weather-related calls yesterday afternoon. Firefighters hit 24 wind-related incidents, including downed power lines, power poles and trees. One pole, 50 feet in length fell and struck two cars in the city's northwest late yesterday afternoon. METRO CALGARY

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

Calgary in brief

CHARGES Calgary police have charged a woman in relation to a stabbing last week. On Nov. 10 Barry Neil Godwin, 48, died as a result of a stabbing in the 900 block of 38 Street NE. Melinda Morin, 28, of Calgary was charged with second-degree murder on Monday. METRO CALGARY

Calgary tweets

• @TheScience Bad day for bridges in #yyc #Calgary Peace Bridge is over budget and St Patricks Bridge Design shortlist looks horrible. Huge Fail #CMLC

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs SpinDoctor breaks down why Toronto's upcoming mayoral race may rival federal campaigns for scrappiness

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Taxi deposits considered

Proposal would let cab drivers collect cash upfront

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Should cabbies be able to ask for a portion of payment upfront, when services have yet to be rendered?

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Roger Richard, president of Associated Cab Ltd., thinks it's a good idea to allow cabbies to require a portion of payment upfront if they think a fare won't pay at the end of a ride.

The Land Use, Planning and Transportation committee is meeting today to discuss several new recommendations to the livery transport bylaws, including allowing taxi drivers to collect a reasonable cash deposit if they feel the fare might not pay at the end of the trip.

Roger Richard, president of Associated Cabs, applauds the recommendation and said it stems mainly from people failing to pay their fare at night or when drunk.

"Because there are a lot of runners and it's an issue of our drivers when people don't pay. It would just happen in those instances, perhaps at night for long distances," Richard said.

Calgarian John Rocher often uses cabs at night, and while he doesn't disagree with the recommendation completely, he worries about the implications.

"How much are they allowed to take? What if they take more than they should ... will they not let you in if you don't show them cash," he asks.

But Ward 4 Ald. Bob Hawkesworth doesn't anticipate the recommendation would be abused.

"I can understand the cab drivers in certain circumstances feeling the need to do this, but as long as it doesn't become standard business practice," Hawkesworth said, adding if people complained it could be revisited.

Calgary cops justified in May shooting: Probe

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Calgary police officers' actions were justified when they shot a knife-wielding man earlier this year, a provincial investigation has concluded.

Alberta Serious Incident Response Team executive director Clifton Purvis said the investigation determined the man was suffering from a mental illness and investigators believe he was suicidal.

"We concluded that his intention in approaching the members of the Calgary police service was that they shoot him," Purvis said, adding the man was co-operative throughout the five-month investigation.

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ASIRT investigators are confident the police actions were lawful when they shot the man as he approached them with a knife in a downtown apartment on May 26, 2009, Purvis said.

The man was shot with a rifle once when he refused to drop the knife.

The man recovered from non-life-threatening injuries.

Visit metronews.ca to watch metrotube of the day

CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

ANDERSON, Barney Charles (Ben)
ANSELMO, Anthony Garry (Tony) OC
ARTHUR, Helen Louise (nee Grant)
CHUTSKOFF, Dale Nicholas
CRUMP, Melvin
CUNNINGHAM, David William
DUNNE - CROY, Helen Louise (Ragan)
GIANNISSIS, Angela (Angeliki)
GILROY, Gordon Charles
HACKETT, Margaret Hynes
HINDS, Anna (Zella) (nee Bennett)
KLAVER, Louis (Lou)
KOTHKE, Elaine Marilyn
LABUHN, Rosa
LAWRIE, Henry Richardson
MacDOUGALL, Evelyn L
McKEE, Pearcyville (Percy) James
MUSSELWHITE, Florence Irene (nee Mathison)
PAYNE, Howard Alan
PROC, Stephan "Steve"
REIMER, Harvie Ronald (Harv)
RITCHIE, William (Bill) Douglas
SCOTT, Roberta Elaine
SILLER, Colleen Anne (nee Gillis)
SKINNER, Antony (Tony)
SPRING, Engelbert (Bert)
STAMBENE, Domenico
YOUNG, David Ia

For full obituaries go to CalgaryObits.com

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Skylight sets world record

Calgary's CORE — Calgary Eaton Centre, TD Square and Holt Renfrew — is the largest point-supported structural glass skylight in the world, thanks to a multi-million dollar redevelopment. The skylight spans three city blocks in the centre of downtown. METRO CALGARY

Shoeboxes spread joy around the world

TANYA VLAHOV
for Metro Calgary

Shoeboxes filled with hope and joy by Calgarians will be delivered to needy children this Christmas living in West Africa, South and Central America.

Michael Ulrich, who has been with Samaritan's Purse for over a year, said he had the privilege to see the looks on kids' faces when they received holiday care packages on a trip to Costa Rica last spring.

"The smile that come across their faces is indescribable, because these children realize that someone far away cares," Ulrich says.

He adds that the charity is unique because of the opportunity to personalize each shoebox by adding a picture or a letter, so the child can put a face to the one that cares.

Ulrich adds that this Christmas he would like the group to pass last years' donation total, but due to the recession, it may be difficult for people to give.

Last year, organizers from Operation Christmas Child were able to collect over 714, 000 boxes.

At samaritanspurse.ca, people can access a list of 20 different locations throughout Calgary where they can drop off shoeboxes.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Michael Ulrich, of Samaritan's Purse, shows off a few shoeboxes that will be making their way around the world.

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Top doc to lay out health agenda

ANDREAS MORSE
for Metro Canada

MEDICINE Alberta's provincial medical officer shared his vision for public health for the province during a speaker series yesterday morning.

But despite trying to focus on being the visible face of public health and renewing the public health act, Dr. Andre Corriveau said the H1N1 pandemic has taken up most of his short time in the position.

When Corriveau became Alberta's chief medical officer of health in March, the position had been empty for several months. He said now that he's finished rebuilding the office, it's time to move forward with a public health agenda.

"We have a lot of other public health issues we have to deal with," he said. "If we really want to make sure we deal with the next pandemic 20 years from now effectively, we have to make sure we have less people with chronic conditions."

Corriveau cited the child obesity crisis and the continuing syphilis outbreak in the province as issues that need to be dealt with more effectively.

"There's no shortage of work in my business," he said.

Pair escape from Bowden Institution

SEARCH Two men are on the run after escaping from Bowden Institution on Monday, according to Correctional Service of Canada.

Prison staff determined Tod James Purvis, 42, and Nathan Mario Paolinelli, 28, both escaped around 10 p.m. Anyone with information about the men is asked to call authorities.

METRO CALGARY

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Fundraiser for hurt, orphaned wildlife

The Cochrane Ecological Institute is holding an Art Sale and Wine and Cheese Fundraiser Nov. 28 and 29 in support of care for injured and orphaned wildlife. For more information, go to ceinst.org. METRO CALGARY

Pilot projects to fight domestic violence

GWYNETH DUNSFORD
for Metro Canada

SOLUTIONS Two pilot projects announced yesterday will help to treat Albertans involved with domestic violence.

The first program, the Red Path Living Without Domestic Violence initiative, hopes to rehabilitate those convicted of domestic violence. Based around the First Nations communities of Alexis and Alexander, northwest of Edmonton, the program will combine First Nations traditions with clinical practices.

Another program, the Integrated Domestic Violence Treatment Program, will work to prevent domestic violence through intervention and counselling. The project will treat men and women who had previously been abusive towards a partner, while also providing services to children exposed to family violence. This program will initially be based in Lethbridge.

The initiatives were endowed by the Safe Communities Innovation Fund to provide grassroots solutions to domestic violence.

As part of the economic recovery plan, the province has pledged to fund the programs over the next three years at a cost of $1.5 million.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Despite the increased demand on resources, the Calgary Food Bank says Calgarians have responded — donating more food and more volunteer hours to ease the pressure.

Food bank demand up

But city organization doing well in tough times: Spokesperson

TANYA VLAHOV
for Metro Calgary

Despite a 40 per cent jump in need, the Calgary Food Bank is weathering the recession well, says an organization spokesperson.

The increase in demand at the food bank coincides with a Food Banks Canada report released yesterday, showing a 61 per cent increase in food bank demand in Alberta.

Calgary Food Bank communications co-ordinator Brooke Hunter said the bank is managing well, having collected more than 20-million pounds of food this year and accumulated more than 17,436 volunteer hours from Calgarians.

"Calgarians are great and have always been willing to lend a helping hand."

Hunter said for other food banks it's challenging to meet the demand, and many times the Calgary Food Bank sends donations to 26 other food banks across south and central Alberta. Since the recession, Calgary is the city that people continue to move to in search of work, and even though many are earning money, 43 per cent of needy Calgarians still require assistance from the food bank.

Of the 53,976 Albertans who have visited their local food banks, 21.4 per cent were Calgarians.

CBC cops to Palin snafu

The CBC has admitted it inadvertently displayed the jacket of an anti-Sarah Palin book during a story about the former vice-presidential candidate that aired on The National. The gaffe came Monday night during a piece on Palin's hotly anticipated new memoir Going Rogue: An American Life. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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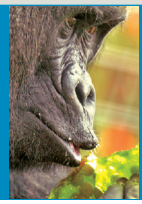

Gorilla to choose son's name with snacks

For some parents the process of selecting their child's name is filled with long discussions, baby name books and never-ending lists, but for Charles the gorilla it will be as easy as choosing his morning snack. The western lowland gorilla at the Toronto Zoo will be presented this morning with five piles of treats and five signs corresponding to options for the name of his baby son, born Sept. 2. Zoo staff decided to let Charles choose his son's name from five names.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Privacy czar slams Fintrac, no-fly list

Data appetite 'insatiable,' says Stoddart

The national agency that fights money laundering is collecting too much information about personal financial dealings, Canada's privacy watchdog says.

In her annual report, Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart also finds shortcomings with Transport Canada's no-fly list — a controversial initiative she has expressed reservations about for years.

Stoddart says the government's drive to secure public safety since the 9-11 terrorist attacks "has led to a seemingly insatiable appetite" for personal details.

Stoddart

"The unprecedented scope of government data collection that we are witnessing today heightens the risk of misuses and unauthorized disclosure," says the report tabled yesterday in Parliament.

"The consequences for individuals can be grave."

Stoddart says the little-known Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada must scale back its data gathering.

The centre, known as Fintrac, zeroes in on cash linked to money laundering, terrorism and other crimes by sifting through information from banks, insurance companies, securities dealers, money service businesses, real estate brokers, casinos and others. "While the centre has put in place elements of checks and controls, there are gaps that need to be addressed," Stoddart's report says.

Stoddart also found that, although suspicious transaction reports are reviewed and prioritized, they are not assessed for reasonable suspicion of money laundering or terrorist financing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Moore on health care

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Documentary maker Michael Moore speaks at a health-care conference in Toronto yesterday. Moore said Canadians have to stand on guard against creating two Canadas — one for the rich and one for the poor — when it comes to health care.

Seal meat on the Hill's menu

FOOD Seal meat is about to join beef tenderloin and baked salmon on the haute-cuisine menu for MPs and senators in the parliamentary restaurant.

MPs say Parliament is picking up the fork from Gov.-Gen. Michaëlle Jean, who triggered a global controversy last May by gobbling seal meat in a show of support for Inuit culture in the Arctic.

The parliamentary restaurant, with a spectacular view, is one of the private gems on Parliament Hill.

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New U.S. breast cancer screening rules warn against false positives

New breast cancer screening guideliens in the U.S. warn against women in their 40s having routine mammograms because false positives can lead to unnecessary biopsies. But women aged 50 to 69 are advised to have tests every two years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘No reservations’ on nuke deal with India: PM

Terrorist threats and civilian nuclear commerce performed a delicate dance yesterday as the prime ministers of Canada and India pledged mutual cooperation on a pair of hot-button issues that could bedevil a renewed Indo-Canadian relationship.

Stephen Harper, near the end of his first visit to the South Asian giant since assuming office four years ago, sat down with Manmohan Singh to face a two-question news conference that managed to link two seemingly disparate issues.

The meeting came as India was putting its nuclear facilities on alert due to intelligence linked to a Pakistani-Canadian being held on terrorism charges in the United States.

So while Indian news media asked Harper, in effect, about the troubling case of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, Canadians were questioning how the case impacts on a looming renewal of civilian nuclear trade with a country that holds an atomic arsenal.

India, which has never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, used Canadian nuclear know-how to secretly build and test its first nuclear bomb in 1974, which soured relations for two decades.

“Notwithstanding the challenges that face this country in the neighbourhood in which it lives, this is a stable and reliable friend of our country and we have no reservations pursuing this kind of (civilian nuclear) agreement,” Harper said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rana case

- Fears of an Indian nuclear power plant being targeted arose after related maps and documents were found in the possession of Canadian Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who is currently being held in Chicago on unrelated terror charges.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, place a wreath with Jeanne Ste-Marie, left, and Hartej Singh at the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi yesterday.

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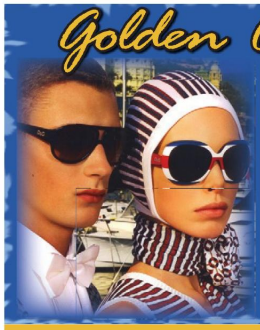

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Finance watchdog handed more work, less funding?

CRIME Canada’s financial transactions watchdog says its services are in greater demand than ever, yet the federal government has cut its budget by eight per cent in two years.

The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FinTRAC) referred 556 cases to police and other agencies in 2008-09.

In tabling the centre’s annual report in Parliament yesterday, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty lauded the centre’s role in “strengthening the integrity of Canada’s financial sector.”

The centre’s director, Jeanne Flemming, said FinTRAC is able to produce “more financial intelligence, more quickly” than ever. However, the Tory government, which has made anti-crime laws a centrepiece of its agenda, has cut the centre’s budget to $48 million from $54.9 million in 2007-08.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister’s reply

- A spokesman for the minister’s office denied FinTRAC’s budget has been cut, saying extra temporary funding that is no longer required had brought it up to the $54 million mark.

Quake shakes northern B.C. coast

ACTIVE AREA A 6.6-magnitude earthquake jolted British Columbia’s north coast early yesterday but did not spawn a tsunami.

Carol Kulesha, the mayor of Queen Charlotte City, said she’d fallen asleep on her couch after watching TV when the shaker hit at 7:30 a.m.

“It woke me from a sound sleep,” she said. “It felt like I was on a train.”

The Pacific Geoscience Centre in Sidney, B.C., reported the quake was centred 144 kilometres southeast of Queen Charlotte City, off the extreme southern tip of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The quake was felt over a wide area of northwestern B.C., from Terrace to Kitimat and as far south as Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island.

Kulesha said earthquakes are not uncommon in the active area, which is about 700 kilometres north of Vancouver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Activists delay suit over elephant
Animal rights activists are giving the City of Edmonton a month to provide proof that Lucy the elephant is too sick to be moved to a warm, California sanctuary. Zoocheck Canada and the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals say they will delay filing a lawsuit against the city over Lucy's health until Dec. 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

More Housakos biz info deleted from web

A second public biography that tied a Conservative senator to an engineering firm that won a lucrative federal stimulus contract was quickly edited to delete references to the position, following inquiries by The Canadian Press.

Senator Leo Housakos was on the payroll of Montreal-based BPR when the company won a $4.5-million contract as part of a consortium studying the future of that city's Champlain Bridge.

Housakos was described as holding the position of vice-president of business development with BPR on his Senate website and in official documents filed with the Senate Ethics Officer.

The senator said in an interview that although he had been hired to work at BPR last December, he was moved out of that job before he even began because of his Senate appointment later in the month. He says he took on the role of president and CEO of BPR's wholly owned subsidiary TerrEau instead.

Senator Leo Housakos

A representative of BPR concurred with Housakos, noting he had left the company on Oct. 1. The Senate bio was changed a day after an interview with The Canadian Press, the discrepancies called an "oversight" by Housakos.

But another online biography on the website for international management consulting firm Alexander Proudfoot as recently as Saturday listed Housakos as "currently serving" as "vice president, business development with BPR engineering," as well as being president of TerrEau.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iggy revamps staff with list of party vets

POLITICS Michael Ignatieff's office has a new look, with a bevy of veterans replacing the Liberal leader's inexperienced inner circle.

Announcing the new senior staff lineup was the first task for Peter Donolo, who began as Ignatieff's new chief of staff yesterday. Donolo is himself a veteran, having served as communications director to former prime minister Jean Chretien.

The new recruits include:

- Mario Lague, one-time communications director to former prime minister Paul Martin, former diplomat and former senior bureaucrat. Lague will take over as Ignatieff's communications director.
- Pat Sorbara, a longtime organizer and former senior adviser in David Peterson's Liberal government in Ontario. Sorbara was named Ignatieff's chief operating officer.
- Brian Bohunicky, a former top ministerial aide during the Chretien years. He takes over the Liberal caucus research bureau and will be a senior policy adviser to the leader.
- Heather Chiasson, another Chretien-era organizer and longtime party worker. She will be Ignatieff's liaison with the party.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Food banks sees record jump in usage: Report

HUNGER A new report says the recession is forcing more Canadians to turn to food banks, many for the first time.

Food Banks Canada, a national umbrella group, says visits to food banks in March this year were up 20 per cent from the previous March, the largest year-over-year increase on record. Almost 800,000 people went to food banks across the country in March and one person in 10 was making a first visit.

61%
A new Food Banks Canada report shows food-bank visits are up 61 per cent in Alberta.

The organization's annual HungerCount report says food-bank visits are up 61 per cent in Alberta, 20 per cent in Nova Scotia and 19 per cent in Ontario. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PEOPLE POWERED

NYPD raids newspaper offices as part of union corruption probe

An official says the New York Police Department raided circulation offices at some of the United States' largest newspapers as part of a union corruption probe. Offices of The New York Times and the New York Post were raided yesterday. The official says the newspaper delivery system around the city is under investigation and the news organizations are not involved. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Guilty plea in Smart abduction

Wanda Eileen Barzee, charged in the 2002 kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart, left, pleaded guilty yesterday as part of a deal with prosecutors and asked Smart to forgive her for all the pain she had caused. "I am so sorry, Elizabeth, for all the pain and suffering I have caused you and your family," Barzee, 64, said. "It is my hope that you will be able to find it in your heart to forgive me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S., China promise teamwork

BEIJING U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao promised a determined, joint effort to tackle climate change, nuclear disarmament and other global troubles yet emerged from their first full-blown summit yesterday with scant progress beyond goodwill.

After two hours of talks and a separate meeting over dinner the night before, the presidents spoke of moving beyond the divisiveness over human rights, trade and military tensions that have bedeviled relations in past decades.

"The major challenges of the 21st century, from climate change to nuclear proliferation to economic recovery, are challenges that touch both our nations, and challenges that neither of our nations can solve by acting alone," Obama said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Row over bow

- Some conservatives are seizing on Obama's bow to Japan's emperor Saturday, accusing the U.S. president of grovelling to a foreign leader.

News in brief

SEATTLE Police say a man who thought he was ninja was impaled on a metal fence when he tried to leap over it. A police officer heard the man screaming for help Monday night and supported him to prevent further injuries until medics arrived and took him to hospital. The man was in serious condition yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prague remembers

Thousands marched through the Czech capital of Prague yesterday in commemoration of a student protest 20 years ago that grew into the human tidal wave sweeping away the communist regime in what was then Czechoslovakia.

JIRI RAJNOHA/CP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE PHOTO

In this November 1989 file photo, a marcher carries a bust of former Soviet leader Joseph Stalin with a sign saying "Nothing Lasts Forever" in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The Velvet Revolution of Nov. 17, 1989, began with fiery speeches at a university, inspiring thousands of students to march toward Wenceslas Square. As darkness fell, police cracked down hard, beating demonstrators and injuring hundreds. Unbowed, the crowds mushroomed in the ensuing days, with demonstrators chanting: "You have lost already!"

They were right. Following the collapse of the Berlin Wall and communism in the region, by Dec. 10, Czechoslovakia had a new government. For many retracing the march, it was a joyful return to a time when repression proved no match for people power.

"I came here with hope," said Renata Krbcova, 45, who studied at Charles University in 1989.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin tears the roof off

RUSSIA Putin in da house? Vladimir Putin is adding another groove to his tough guy persona: Hip hop idol. The Russian Prime Minister appeared on Muz-TV to hand out awards and declare that Russian hip-hoppers can help fight drugs. "I have to say that young people involved in these arts give them their own Russian charm," he said Friday. Putin did not rap, but he did deliver his speech clutching a mike to the backdrop of a hip hop beat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Russian ship stuck in the ice in Antarctica

A Russian icebreaker was struggling to free itself from sea ice about eight kilometres from clear water on yesterday, a shipping company said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan 'corruption is a phenomenon'

Afghanistan has slipped three places to become the world's second most-corrupt country despite billions in aid meant to bolster the government against a rising insurgency, according to an annual survey of perceived levels of corruption.

Only lawless Somalia, whose weak UN-backed government controls just a few blocks of the capital, was perceived as more corrupt than Afghanistan in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. Singapore, Denmark and New Zealand were seen as the least corrupt countries in the list based on surveys of businesses and experts. In Afghanistan, President Hamid Karzai's inability or unwillingness to tackle cronyism and bribery the past five years have resulted in an increase of support for the Taliban insurgents.

That has prompted calls by the Obama administration for Karzai to tackle the practice or risk forfeiting U.S. aid. Since 2001, the U.S. Congress has appropriated more than $39 billion in humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for Afghanistan.

The report said examples of Afghan corruption ranged from the sale of government positions to daily bribes for basic services.

In reaction to the report, Ershad Ahmadi, the deputy director general of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-corruption in Afghanistan, said that "corruption is a phenomenon that will not go away overnight. It is a problem that will continue to be with Afghanistan for a long time." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rankings

Most corrupt:
1. Somalia
2. Afghanistan
3. Myanmar
4. Sudan
5. Iraq

Least corrupt:
1. New Zealand
2. Denmark
3. Singapore
4. Sweden
5. Switzerland
9. Canada

SOURCE: TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

News in brief

AUSTRALIA Formerly conjoined Bangladeshi twins spent their first night in separate beds and were in serious but stable condition yesterday following a marathon surgery to separate the toddlers, who were joined at their heads. Trishna and Krishna, who turn three next month, shared skull, blood vessels and brain tissue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Read Kids' Metro! *Special edition out on Friday, 20th*

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On Friday, November 20th, it's Kids Day at Metro! We're celebrating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the United Nations. Read about the leaders of the future: and find out what Canadian kids would do if they ruled the world. Also an exclusive interview with Annie Lennox on her children campaign.

metro

There are things that only the world's largest global newspaper can do

Colorado considers taxing medical marijuana
Colorado's Gov. Bill Ritter plans to direct medical marijuana dispensaries to start paying sales tax. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woman kicked out of school for short dress wants security guard

Brushing back freshly dyed blond hair as she posed for pictures, the Brazilian woman whose short pink dress got her kicked out of college said yesterday she's enjoying her newfound fame, but wants to go back to school — with a security guard.

Just the day before, 20-year-old Geisy Arruda took her first trip on an airplane so she could relive her experience in a comedy skit on one of Brazil's most popular television shows.

It was heady stuff for a 20-year-old freshman who says she just wants to get a tourism degree so she can fulfil dreams of working for a resort or a cruise line.

She'd already appeared on two of Brazil's top interview programs, recounting how she was hounded from the campus of Bandeirantes University in October by male students yelling "Whore! Whore!" and was then expelled by school officials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twenty-year-old Geisy Arruda has been told she can return to Bandeirantes University.

The private university backtracked amid a national uproar and said last week she was welcome to return for her regular routine of night classes.

But Arruda's lawyer says she won't go back until she's promised a well-trained security guard to accompany her on campus.

She said she's still stumped that an outfit, no matter how short, would cause such an uproar in a tropical nation where skimpy clothing and tiny bikinis barely raise an eyebrow.

Arruda said one young man said he liked her looks, then more joined in.

Soon other students loudly proclaimed they wanted to have sex with her, snapping pictures with their cellphones. Hundreds were drawn to the scene, creating a sort of mob mentality, Arruda said. Chants of "Whore! Whore!" erupted from the mob as she was escorted from the university in a borrowed white lab coat.

Arruda said she had worn the dress to classes once before, in March, with no reaction. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

All the world's a stage

Harper's song-and-dance routines have changed image

TheWestView

I guess it's time to admit it: Stephen Harper has got his groove.

It's not easy to admit when you've always thought the PM was the Canadian equivalent of the Dark Lord, surrounding himself with a cabal of fundamentalist Christian Orcs who think the world is 10,000 years old and the little woman belongs in the kitchen, barefoot and denied birth control.

But even I have to admit that the PM is at the wheel in the fast lane and deserves to be there. It all started last month with a Little Help From His Friends, when Harper uncharacteristically crooned the Beatle tune at the piano and solidified his political fortunes.

And this week, he took the stage in Bollywood, of all places, looking like Stephen the Stud with his backup stable of dancers.

All of a sudden, this Reform Party wonk seems to own the stage, even displaying a dash of panache, while Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff, the Pierre Trudeau of the 21st century, comes off looking like that other Stéphane.

It's not all Harper, of course. Iggy made a bad trade, giving up reflection and discernment for equivocation and poll-watching. He made the great mistake of trying to live up to his expectations right out of the gate by threatening the PM with a great thrashing, and then, exposed as a poseur, left the room in haste, pink cheeks and all.

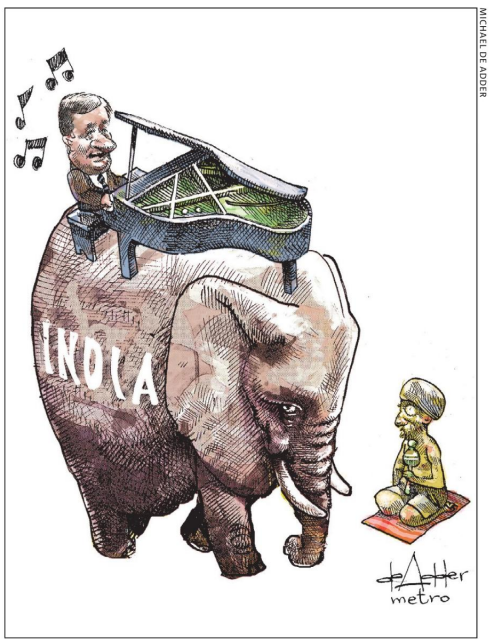
"It all started last month with a Little Help From His Friends, when Harper uncharacteristically crooned the Beatle tune at the piano and solidified his political fortunes."

The PM's recent song-and-dance routine is just the latest from the man with the plan. He has managed to keep the Orcs from savaging small children in public and has somehow kept his minority mandate alive through two opposition leaders and the worst recession since the Dirty 30s.

He's done it with discipline. And he's done it with a song, if not in his heart, at least on his lips. It doesn't matter if it's all spin. It is spin that sends the following message, apparently irresistible to Canadians: This guy is tough but human. It's a strategy stolen directly from the playbooks of Messieurs Trudeau and Jean Chrétien, two other tough but humans. They were marvellous to watch, using whatever props were available to demonstrate their humanity. Trudeau could say more with a rose than any metrosexual alive today, and Chrétien was all hearty (and heartily fake) bonhomie.

Stephen Harper is standing on the shoulders of giants, and in the process, is starting to stand tall all by himself. Sing us another song, Mr. Harper; you're the piano man now.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: What do you think of professional athletes participating in the Olympic torch relay?

A.J.
age 19, Calgary

A: Professionals should get the chance to carry the torch just like everyone else.

Tony Cadri
age 23, Calgary

A: There shouldn't be any difference from the other people who carry the torch. Involving everyone is in the spirit of the Games.

Nancy Bartlett
age n/a, Halifax

A: I think it's fine, it brings attention to the torch relay. I think people are interested in what professional athletes are doing. If it was all professional athletes that would be bad, but throw in an odd Sidney Crosby, I think people like that.

Travis McKenzie
age 21, Edmonton

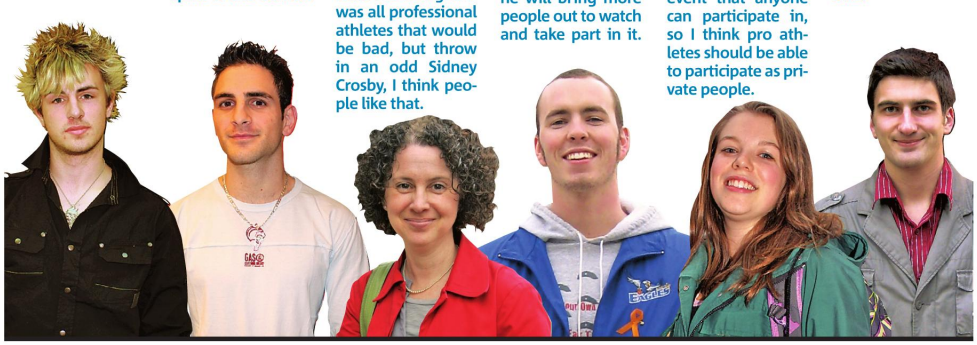
A: I think that if you are having someone like Wayne Gretzky participating in it, I think then he will bring more people out to watch and take part in it.

Lena DaBrusin
age 19, Vancouver

A: I think the Olympics should be for amateurs, but the torch relay represents a universal event that anyone can participate in, so I think pro athletes should be able to participate as private people.

Ian Vandaelle
age 19, Toronto

A: I think it's an important way to raise awareness for the Games. It really brings people in ... It's good for exposure.



Worth mentioning

Clogged arteries aren't new malady: Scientists

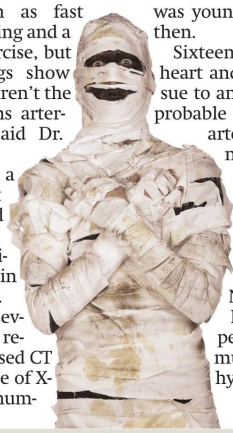
You can't blame this one on McDonald's: Researchers have found signs of heart disease in 3,500-year-old mummies.

"We think of it as being caused by modern risk factors," such as fast food, smoking and a lack of exercise, but the findings show that these aren't the only reasons arteries clog, said Dr. Randall Thompson, a cardiologist at the Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City.

He and several other researchers used CT scans, a type of X-ray, on 22 mummies kept in the Egyptian National Museum of Antiquities in Cairo. The subjects were from 1981 BC to 334 AD. Half were thought to be older than 45 when they died, and average lifespan was younger than 50 back then.

Sixteen mummies had heart and blood vessel tissue to analyze. Definite or probable hardening of the arteries was seen in nine.

One mummy had evidence of a possible heart attack but scientists don't know if it was fatal. Nor can they tell how much these people weighed — mummification dehydrates the body.



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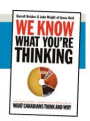

36% The number of Canadians who say that the snacks they typically eat are generally becoming less healthy.

IPSOS REID

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Microsoft co-founder diagnosed with cancer
Microsoft Corp. co-founder and billionaire investor Paul Allen has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and is undergoing chemotherapy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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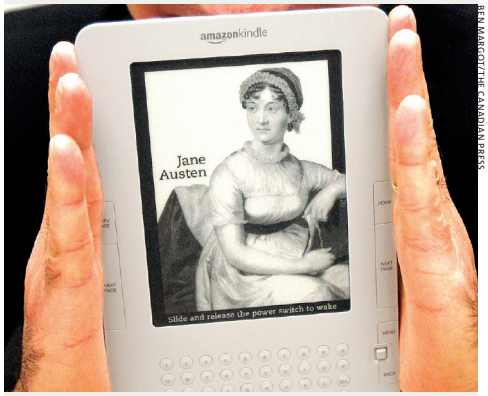
EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Technology Kindle is finally here



BEN MARGOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Kindle is displayed at a recent interview in California. The Kindle is finally coming to Canada. Amazon.com announced yesterday the ebook reader, with its high-resolution 15-centimetre screen, is now available to Canadians. Scan the code on the right or visit metronews.ca for the full story.

SCANLIFE

CBC pushes skinny TV

The CBC says it has a simple solution to the battle over so-called television tax controversy facing cable and satellite subscribers.

The public broadcaster is telling the federal regulator it should force the carriers to offer a skinny service of Canadian stations at a cost lower than current basic service offered by cable firms.

CBC president Hubert Lacroix told the CRTC cable companies are growing rich on the signals they currently retransmit free from the broadcasters.

And he presented what he says is proof the system is broken, tabling graphs showing profits for broadcasters have been on a steady downward path since the introduction of cable specialty channels in the early 1980s. He says cable firms like Rogers Communications and Shaw Communications have been raking in profits since cable fees were deregulated in 1998. Lacroix says the cost to consumers of the basic cable package has risen four times more than the cost of living in the past decade.

"Its pretty obvious that the Canadian BDUs (carriers) are winning this race to the top," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

INVESTMENTS The head of the Caisse de depot says Canada's largest pension fund manager plans a change in strategy to ensure long term returns while also helping Quebec companies to better compete around the world.

CASE A lawyer for Scotiabank says a class action lawsuit over unpaid overtime should be dismissed because thousands of employees involved in the case have individual claims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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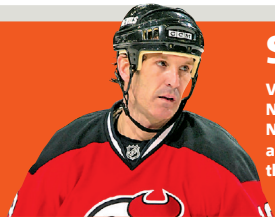
CAP REIT

Greinke wins AL Cy Young

Zack Greinke won the American League Cy Young Award yesterday, beating out Seattle's Felix Hernandez after a spectacular season short on wins but long on domination. Greinke went 16-8 with a 2.16 ERA for the Kansas City Royals. Toronto's Roy Halladay finished fifth in the voting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Shanahan calls it quits

Veteran forward Brendan Shanahan, left, is retiring after 21 years in the NHL. The 39-year-old unrestricted free agent finishes his career 11th on the NHL's all-time goal scoring list with 656 goals. In 1,524 games, Shanahan amassed 1,354 points. He is the only player in NHL history to collect more than 2,000 penalty minutes and 600 goals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Calgary drops tight one

NHL RESULT

Colorado 3 Calgary 2

AT

Rookie defenceman Ryan Wilson scored his first NHL goal and added an assist to lead the Colorado Avalanche to a 3-2 win over the Calgary Flames last night.

Milan Hejduk scored the game-winning goal on a power play for the Avalanche (13-5-3), who moved three points ahead of the Flames (12-5-2) in the battle for top spot in the Northwest Division. Cody McLeod also scored, while Paul Stastny chipped in with a pair of assists.

Calgary captain Jarome Iginla continued his hot streak with his 12th goal of the season, and eighth in his past seven games. Rene Bourque also scored for the Flames, who had earned points in six straight games prior to yesterday's setback.

Avalanche goaltender Craig Anderson made 34 saves on 36 shots, none bigger than a pad save on a point-blank shot by Olli Jokinen with three minutes left in the third period.

Calgary goalie Miikka Kiprusoff made 21 saves as he lost in regulation for the first time in November.

Aided by an early power play, the Flames fired the first six shots of the game on net but couldn't get one past Anderson.

The Avalanche then bounced back to fire seven straight shots at Kiprusoff, scoring on one.

After Kiprusoff made two straight pad saves on shots by Colorado forward Wojtek Wolski, Wilson crept in off the point and picked up a loose puck in the slot before backhanding a shot into the Calgary net for the game's first goal.

It was only the fifth time in 19 contests that the Flames failed to score the first goal of the game this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colorado Avalanche Chris Stewart, left, fights with Calgary Flames' Brandon Prust during the first period of last night's game at the Pengrowth Saddledome.

Sports in brief

LESNAR A friend of UFC champion Brock Lesnar says the ultimate fighter is back at his home in Alexandria, Minn., as he recovers from a bacterial infection, and won't make decisions about his career until his health has improved.

SOCCER Iraq faces suspension from international soccer if it does not restore the disbanded national federation by tomorrow. FIFA said yesterday it was "incomprehensible" for Iraq's Olympic committee to dissolve the national soccer authority's ruling board. Iraqi Olympic officials alleged that the federation had committed financial and administrative irregularities and repeatedly delayed elections.

NFL Running back Larry Johnson has signed with the Cincinnati Bengals as a backup, giving the AFC North leaders depth at the position for what's shaping up to be a playoff season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

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NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	193	98	128	226
2. Joanne Doiron	NB, CA	191	98	123	221
3. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	193	103	114	217
3. Paula Almeida-Stille		193	95	122	217
3. Stephen Stille	ON, CA	193	95	122	217
6. Rick Kit	ON, CA	191	93	121	214
7. Danny Chan	ON, CA	192	90	121	211
7. Stephanie Warren	NS, CA	191	93	118	211
9. Brian B	AB, CA	196	92	118	210
9. Edward Smith	NS, CA	186	94	116	210
11. Claude Brunelle	BC, CA	191	87	122	209
12. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	189	99	109	208
12. Neil Mann	ON, CA	188	102	106	208
12. Patrick Reed	AB, CA	190	96	112	208
15. B Fillmore	BC, CA	192	74	133	207

** Results exclude Quebec*

markerzone.com

metro

Flames pick right time to catch fire

TheHockeyNews

John Grigg

thehockeynews.com

In this day-and-age of six- and seven-figure salaries, chartered flights, five-star hotels and more free perks than you can shake a composite stick at, it really is amazing how a good bag skate and the fear of a coach's wrath can affect a team.

That's what's happened with the Flames the past two weeks.

After a middling 7-4-1 start, including two particularly poor showings that turned into losses to end October, coach Brent Sutter left the pucks in the bag for much of the first Monday of November. Treating his players to a good old-fashioned dressing-down and some minor hockey-like skating "drills."

And it worked.

Headed into yesterday's action, Calgary had gone 5-0-1 since that Monday practice, including four wins and a shootout loss on the road. Captain Jarome Iginla had seven goals and eight points during the streak; goalie Miikka Kiprusoff had lowered his goals-against average from 3.00 to 2.35 and raised his save percentage from .901 to .923; lesser-lights — if no less important to the team's fortunes — Daymond Lankow, Nigel Dawes and Olli Jokinen were scoring; and the surprising Rene Bourque continued to show he is one of the league's burgeoning stars.

Most encouraging, Calgary's team-defence looked to be coming around. After allowing 3.25 goals-per-game to begin the year, the Flames had given up just 1.20 since Sutter's less-than-subtle on-ice message at the beginning of the month.

A particularly telling game came this past Saturday in Toronto. After scoring a few easy ones less than 10 minutes into the game to earn a 3-1 lead, the Maple Leafs came roaring back in the second period, carrying the play and outshooting the Flames 20-4.

But Calgary weathered the storm. Toronto scored just a single goal thanks to Kiprusoff and Iginla essentially put the game away two-and-a-half minutes into the third when he restored Calgary's two-goal lead.

Now, the Leafs are no juggernaut and have few players with much scoring skill, but the fact the Flames didn't wilt and then came out hopping to begin the third is encouraging for Red Milers. With a stretch that began last night against Colorado of 22-straight games versus Western Conference opponents, Calgary couldn't have picked a better time to get hot.

The Hockey News thn.com

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	PT
d-Washington	21	13	4	4	30
d-New Jersey	19	14	5	0	28
d-Buffalo	17	12	4	1	25
Pittsburgh	21	14	7	0	28
Philadelphia	17	11	5	1	23
NY Rangers	21	11	9	1	23
NY Islanders	21	8	6	7	23
Tampa Bay	18	8	4	6	22
Atlanta	17	10	6	1	21
Ottawa	18	9	6	3	21
Boston	20	8	8	4	20
Montreal	21	10	11	0	20
Florida	18	7	9	2	16
Toronto	19	3	11	5	11
Carolina	20	3	12	5	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	PT
d-San Jose	23	14	5	4	32
d-Colorado	21	13	5	3	29
d-Chicago	19	12	5	2	26
Los Angeles	22	13	7	2	28
CALGARY	**19**	**12**	**5**	**2**	**26**
Columbus	19	11	6	2	24
Detroit	18	10	5	3	23
Dallas	19	8	5	6	22
Phoenix	20	11	9	0	22
Vancouver	21	11	10	0	22
Nashville	19	10	8	1	21
Edmonton	21	8	10	3	19
St. Louis	18	6	8	4	16
Minnesota	20	7	11	2	16
Anaheim	19	6	10	3	15

YESTERDAY

Colorado 3 **CALGARY** 2
Ottawa 3 Toronto 2
Montreal 3 Carolina 2 (SO)
Nashville 4 San Jose 3
Washington 4 N.Y. Rangers 2

TODAY

Florida at Buffalo
Dallas at Detroit
Phoenix at Minnesota
Colorado at Edmonton
Philadelphia at Los Angeles

TOMORROW

Toronto at Carolina
Boston at Atlanta
Pittsburgh at Ottawa
Phoenix at St. Louis
New Jersey at Nashville
Columbus at Dallas
Chicago at Calgary
Tampa Bay at Anaheim

d - division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	8	3	.727	-
Toronto	5	5	.500	2.5
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	3.5
New York	1	9	.100	6.5
New Jersey	0	11	.000	8

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	9	2	.818	-
Orlando	8	3	.727	1
Miami	7	3	.700	1.5
Charlotte	3	7	.300	5.5
Washington	2	7	.222	6

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Cleveland	8	3	.727	-
Indiana	5	3	.625	1.5
Milwaukee	5	3	.625	1.5
Chicago	5	4	.556	2
Detroit	5	5	.500	2.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE
SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	8	3	.727	-
Houston	6	4	.600	1.5
San Antonio	4	4	.500	2.5
New Orleans	4	8	.333	4.5
Memphis	2	8	.200	5.5

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	7	3	.700	-
Portland	8	4	.667	-
Oklahoma City	6	5	.545	1.5
Utah	4	6	.400	3
Minnesota	1	10	.091	6.5

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	9	2	.818	-
L.A. Lakers	7	3	.700	1.5
Sacramento	5	4	.556	3
L.A. Clippers	4	8	.333	5.5
Golden State	3	7	.300	5.5

YESTERDAY

Cleveland 114 Golden State 108
Indiana 91 New Jersey 83
New Orleans 110 L.A. Clippers 102
Oklahoma City 100 Miami 87
Phoenix at Houston
Toronto at Denver
Chicago at Sacramento
Detroit at L.A. Lakers

TODAY

Toronto at Utah
Miami at Atlanta
New York at Indiana
Oklahoma City at Orlando
Cleveland at Washington
Charlotte at Philadelphia
Golden State at Boston
New Jersey at Milwaukee
L.A. Clippers at Memphis
Houston at Minnesota
San Antonio at Dallas
Detroit at Portland

CFL

SUNDAY
EASTERN FINAL
B.C. at Montreal

WESTERN FINAL
CALGARY at Saskatchewan

SUNDAY, NOV. 29
GREY CUP
AT CALGARY
East vs. West champions

Aboriginal Gathering Place opens at Northern Lights College
Last week, British Columbia.-based Northern Lights College officially opened its new Aboriginal Gathering Place at its Fort Nelson campus. The gathering place features artwork and cultural artifacts commissioned by local Aboriginal bands. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Niagara College hits the wine

Earlier this month, Niagara College held an opening ceremony for its new Wine Visitor and Education Centre at its Niagara-on-the-Lake campus. Set in the school's teaching vineyards, the $3.6-million centre will showcase and promote the Ontario and Canadian wine industry, provide wine tourism information services, and feature academic and wine industry programming. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Seasonal employees fuel the holiday rush

'Tis the **Season**

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Over the next few weeks Metro's Workology section will be shining a light on some of the jobs that pop up around the holiday season and disappear just as quickly afterwards. Check back every Wednesday.

We tend to think of seasonal workers as following the rhythms of land and sea, fishing and farming as animals and crops reach an abundance, but for many workers the season they follow is signalled by the ringing of cash-register bells during the holiday season.

Across Canada, a vast workforce of shopping-mall Santas, office party caterers, Christmas tree retailers, outdoor decorators and fundraisers for charitable organizations is assembled to produce, ship and sell goods for the king of holidays, in a holiday season that stretches for months.

"If they're coming just for seasonal, then typically that's what it is: They're looking for extra spending money."
Jim MacGregor, of Sears Canada

Jim MacGregor, director of associate relations for Sears Canada, is one of many in the retail industry gearing up for the annual recruitment drive. In Atlantic Canada alone, the company is hiring about 200 extra staff to deal with the holiday rush.

"We do a lot of seasonal hiring," he says. "This time of year, it's more in the stores — anything that would help a customer."

While some of the seasonal hires are hoping to move on to full-time employment, a lot are university students or parents who don't usually work looking to earn a little extra money to buy holiday gifts and cover the end-of-year bills.

It works well for Sears: Many of the extra workers are regular Sears shoppers.

"It really represents our customers," MacGregor agrees. "If they're coming just for seasonal, then typically that's what it is: They're looking for extra spending money."

For some forward-thinking seasonal workers, that extra money is earned in the summer. Grace Rivers is the corporate relations director at the Canada-wide recruitment agency Adecco Employment Services. While retail outlets hire their own seasonal staff in the late fall, her firm works overtime for the summer holiday boom.

The "light industrial" areas of manufacturing and distribution for companies like Sears, Hudson Bay and Canadian Tire create and ship items over the summer so that everything is in place come the holiday season, Rivers explains. That creates a seasonal spike in demand for warehouse jobs.

"(Companies) know they have to ramp up their work force at a certain time. They get their product out, and then they ramp down. They know their sales are going to increase over Christmas, but they planned for that last April," she says. "They would be busy in August and September for what they anticipate coming up in November and December."

By the end of the year, many office workers are burnt out, that's where office party caterers come in, just one of the many forms of seasonal — holiday — employment.

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EARLY-BREAKING NEWS. m.metronews.ca

Kia rewards

Kia Canada has announced the launch of its Customers Rewards Program, the first of its kind in the Canadian automotive industry. The program includes discounts on future dealership purchases, added vehicle services, and access to exclusive offers. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

'Spa' on wheels

French automaker Renault has revealed the Zoe Z.E. electric car concept, whose interior apparently mirrors a "spa-like experience." No surprise that the car was designed with help from cosmetics manufacturer Biotherm. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Accord steps up

The 2010 Honda Accord Crossover is based on the Accord sedan.

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

2010 Honda Accord Crosstour

Type: Crossover station wagon
Price: from $36,000 (estimate)
Engine: 3.5-litre SOHC, V6 (271 hp, 254 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Luxury look with Honda feel
- Solid on road
- AWD option

Honda's 2010 Accord Crosstour is part of an emerging automotive segment of vehicles that have the qualities of a station wagon, a utility vehicle and a minivan but can't be categorized as either.

Like its cousin, the Acura ZDX, and the BMW X6, that arguable started it all, the Accord Crosstour is a fastback luxury tourer aimed at mature buyers with time, money and leisure on their minds.

Sit in the driver's seat and any previous Honda owner will feel at home right down to the shape and feel of the steering wheel. Like a BMW, everything is where you expect to find it.

But there is also a big difference.

The Crosstour is more like the Acura with the use of premium quality materials such as wood trim separating the upper and lower, two-tone or monotone interior.

Seating is leather with surprising few options because most amenities like the 360-watt sound system with an array of speakers, USB device and MP3 jack, to name a few, are standard.

Because the sharp rearward rake of the back hatch appears to rob cargo room, Honda Canada officials made a big thing about capacity at the press launch.

Behind the 60/40 split/fold rear seat there are 728 litres with the cargo floor flat. Lift this up and there is a 54-litre bin concealed which has two, four-litre cubbies on each side. The floor panel is carpeted on one side and plastic on the other so it can be used to haul stuff like plants and soil and then be hosed off after use.

If they decided to go down a rutted cottage country path, the Accord Crosstour has all-wheel-drive (AWD) as an option.

There is one engine offered in the form of a 3.5-litre, SOHC V6 producing 271 hp and 254 lb/ft of torque.

With the standard five-speed automatic transmission, fuel economy is rated at 11.5/7.2L/100 km city/highway for the front-wheel-drive version (FWD) and 12.3/8.0L/100 km city/highway for the AWD.

The Crosstour is fully fitted out with safety features like six airbags, active front seat headrests (which is crucial in my opinion), four-wheel disc brakes with ABS (with brake assist and electronic brake force distribution), tire pressure monitoring, and Honda Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) with traction control.

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

Read this week's column at metronews.ca/autopilot

For more reviews of the latest cars, visit: **metronews.ca/autoreviews**

Location, Location, Location?

Where You Live Can Impact Your Car Insurance Rate

How Much Is Your Postal Code Costing You?

We've all heard that with real estate, the biggest driver of your success is location. Can the same be said for getting the lowest car insurance rate? The answer is – sort of.

Insurance companies do use a wide variety of risk factors when setting premiums, and where you live is one of them. If you live in an area that a given insurance company knows to have a high claims rate, all things being equal, you can expect to pay more than someone living in an area with a lower claims rate.

Should I Consider Moving To Get A Better Rate?

Probably not. The truth is, even if you did move, there's no guarantee you'd get a lower rate, since each insurance company sets its rates independently and can change them up to 4 times per year according to a wide variety of factors of which your location is only one.

What's The REAL Secret to Lowering Your Rate?

The simplest and easiest thing you can do to lower your rate is to SHOP AROUND. Why? Because the rates charged by different insurance companies, to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

Start Saving Your Money Now.

With quotes from over 20 of the top insurance companies in Canada, InsuranceHotline.com is the best way to make sure you aren't overpaying for your car insurance. And it is completely FREE to use. So don't waste another minute. Go online to InsuranceHotline.com and start saving your money now.

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SAVE TIME AND MONEY by quickly comparing your rate to the lowest rate available

CONNECT with our large network of licensed insurance professionals

Beetle has plenty of fans

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 1998 to 2005 Volkswagen Beetle
VEHICLE TYPE: Coupe or convertible
APPROXIMATE USED CAR PRICE RANGE: $2,500 to $19,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: The VW New Beetle was probably the most successful retro-car resurrection of all time. When VW re-introduced the model back in 1998, it quickly gained enormous popularity, flew off dealer lots, and won countless awards. VW had a hit on their hands.

The New Beetle got much of the original's fun-loving attitude and cheeky character — though it shared its guts with the new Jetta and Golf. Originally, the New Beetle was available with a 2.0 litre four-cylinder engine with 115 horsepower, or a 1.9 litre TDI four-cylinder diesel unit. The diesel engine uses less fuel, though the simple 2.0 litre gas engine should inexpensively meet the needs of most drivers.

The gist? It shouldn't be hard to find a Beetle that's just perfect for your needs and budget.

Second Gear

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: The upscale interior, fun-to-drive factor and fuel consumption ratings are primary points of owner praise. Stereo systems with iPod integration were appreciated, as was the refined overall experience.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: The two biggest gripes reported by owners deal with visibility and trunk space — though some note squeaks and rattles that develop over time, too.

COMMON ISSUES: Looking at a TDI model? Be sure the idle is relatively smooth and free of missing, which could indicate a compression problem or potential engine damage.

Be sure the 1.8 litre turbo engine, if equipped, idles and pulls smoothly, too. These engines were known for frustrating failures of the electric coil packs that fire the spark plugs. If the engine 'misses', that's likely what's going on.

Also, be sure the timing belt on the turbo engine is within its service life and that oil changes were carried out within prescribed limits. Suffice to say a poorly-maintained 1.8T engine is not a desirable thing to own.

Get under the car and check for any signs of leaks, especially coolant. This could indicate a water-pump that's readying to fail.

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AMVIC LICENSED

Good Riddance Day

Forget being in Times Square on New Year's Eve — if you can't wait to leave 2009 behind, New York City is also planning a Good Riddance Day event, where you can write down those bad memories and shred them. The date will be posted at timessquarenyc.org. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

Return to the rooftops

New Year's Eve fireworks will return to the rooftops of Las Vegas Strip hotels to ring in 2010 after ground-level displays disappointed revellers last year. "We're moving the fireworks show back to where it should be," said Pat Christenson, president of the event promoter, Las Vegas Events. The $550,000 fireworks show will be fired from atop seven tall hotels, and the street will again be closed to form a pedestrian mall for the event. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Roy's home named historic site

WINNIPEG One hundred years after the birth of celebrated novelist Gabrielle Roy at 375 Deschambault St. in southeast Winnipeg, the 2 1/2-storey wood-frame house has been named a national historic site. Roy lived there for 28 years, until 1937. The building, located in a quiet residential neighbourhood in St. Boniface, is now a museum dedicated to the author. Roy described her family home in several of her works, particularly Street of Riches.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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What's new in Waikiki

DAWNA L. ROBERTSON
for Metro Canada

If you haven't visited Waikiki in awhile, you'll be in for a pleasant surprise when you do.

This iconic Hawaii destination, which is a Honolulu neighbourhood, has gone through a major renaissance over the past few years, enhancing everything from accommodations to shopping and dining.

Making perhaps the greatest retail splash, the Waikiki Beach Walk has stepped onto the stage with a collection of eateries, shops and upgraded Outrigger Hotels & Resorts properties. There's even a new Embassy Suites Waikiki, with the upscale Trump Waikiki Hotel opening in mid-November.

Also adding to the revived retail mix is the Royal Hawaiian Center, revamping a former concrete fortress into a pleasant shopping and dining venue that's home to the Royal Grove — Waikiki's largest garden area that's tucked on the grounds of the center fronting the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

One of those newbies generating the biggest buzz amid this mix of fresh faces is the $21 million US renovation of the OHANA Waikiki Beachcomber and the grand opening of its colourful Jimmy Buffett's at the Beachcomber, a new dining, entertainment and retail venue that's Hawaii's first Jimmy Buffett eatery.

This new gathering place for Parrotheads and those who simply seek good food, libations and fun occupies a prominent location on Kalakaua Avenue above Macy's in the OHANA Waikiki Beachcomber's lobby level. It's a lively celebration of Jimmy's adventurous lifestyle and the natural wonders of Hawaii where you can dine or enjoy your favorite beverage on an open-air lanai or within one of the extraordinary island atmospheres created throughout the facility.

Specialities include Calypso Mahi Mahi, Big Island Vegetable Stir Fry, Bayou Shrimp Pasta, Coconut Shrimp, Jerk Salmon and assorted savoury sandwiches. And naturally, since it's in paradise, Jimmy offers his signature cheeseburger — a food icon in itself.

As for decor, the restaurant is visit worthy even if you're between meals.

Unique technology allows for beautiful sunsets, crashing waves and majestic mountains to blend seamlessly with the Hot Spot Bar (dramatically honouring the molten lava formation of the islands); the Ocean Waves Dining Booths (inspired by the towering waves found on Oahu's North Shore); and the music of Jimmy Buffett and the Islands. Buffett has commented that from the first time he caught a wave at Canoes on Waikiki, he began to figure out how he could become more deeply linked with this destination. "I have had a long love affair with Hawaii and her people," he said.

ROBERT CRAVENS

A view of Waikiki Beach with Diamond Head crater in the background.

Good to know

- Hawaii Visitors & Convention Bureau: gohawaii.com
- Waikiki Beach Walk: waikikibeachwalk.com
- Outrigger Hotels & Resorts: outrigger.com
- Embassy Suites Waikiki: embassysuiteswaikiki.com
- Trump Waikiki Hotel: trumpwaikikihotel.com
- Royal Hawaiian Center: royalhawaiiancenter.com
- Royal Hawaiian Hotel: royal-hawaiian.com
- OHANA Waikiki Beachcomber: ohanawaikikibeachcomber.com
- Jimmy Buffett's at the Beachcomber: jimmybuffettsatthebeachcomber.com

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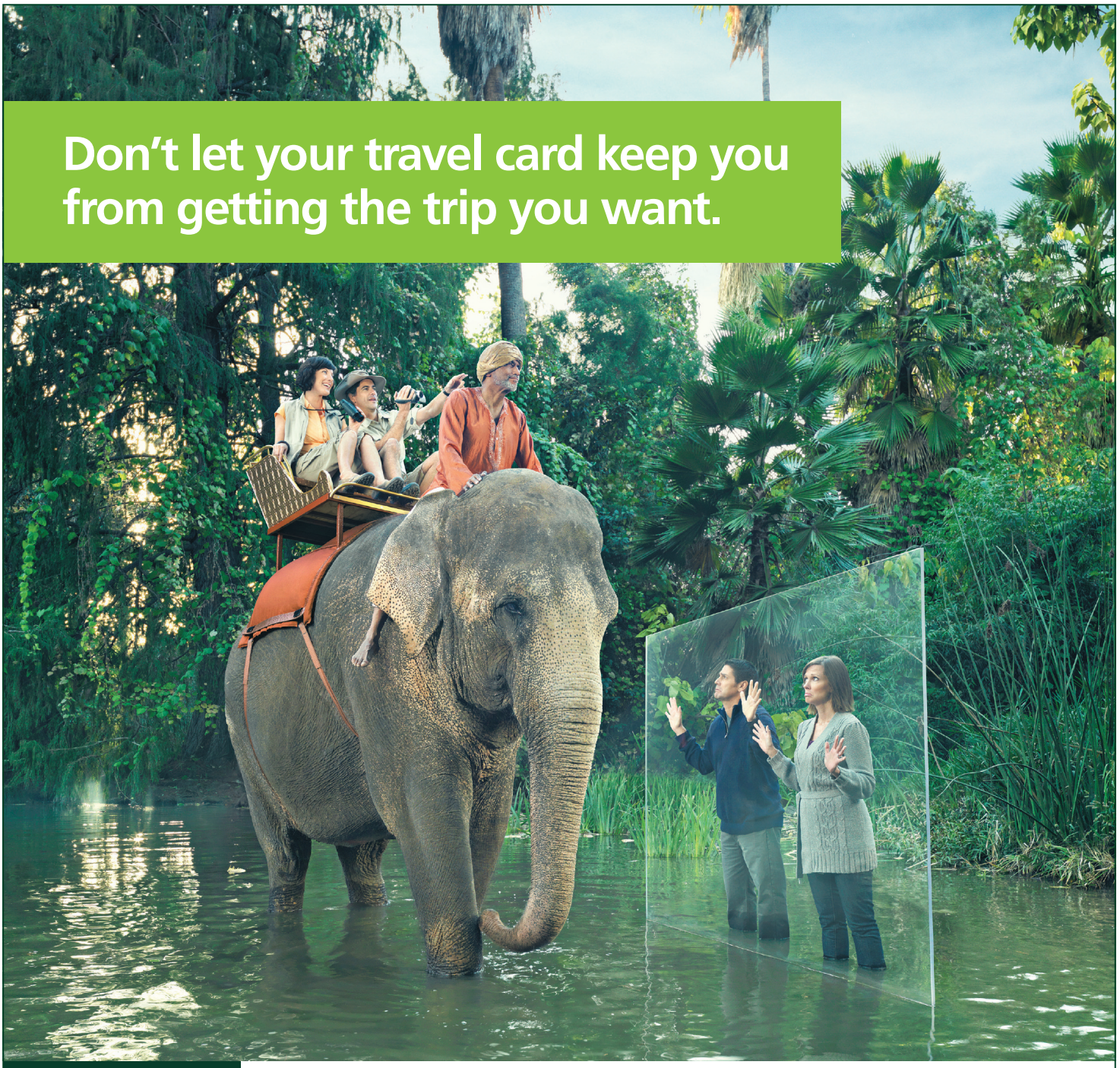

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Melrose Place returns to its roots

Ready for some more old-school Melrose Place fireworks? A rep for the CW says Heather Locklear (Amanda) Daphne Zuniga (Jo), Josie Bissett (Jane) and Thomas Calabro (Michael) will reunite in the fabled courtyard of the apartment complex in an episode set to air early next year. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment

GQ's man

The GQ men of the year honorees are Tom Brady, Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms, Chris Pine, Clint Eastwood and President Barack Obama. POPEATER.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Glee star unlikely choice to be lead

BRIAN COULTON
Metro World News

TV SHOW Cory Monteith never considered himself a triple threat.

He could sing, but never sang before, he played drums in a band that never broke and his acting credits included "Scooter Guy" and "Teenage Boy" as recently as 2007.

"It's a little surreal, playing this all-American jock when I'm Canadian, never played sports, and am 27-years-old playing high school."
Cory Monteith

So when the Calgary, Alta.-born, Victoria-raised actor got the call to play a principal role in breakout TV musical comedy Glee, it's unsurprising he felt just a little overwhelmed.

"I didn't really understand what this thing was going to be, how it would change my day-to-day life," he said days following an appearance at the Gemini Awards in his hometown. "It occurred to me, when I had five people on speakerphone call me at once and say, 'You've got it!' … just the tone in their voices explained a lot to me about the size and scope of this project."

Thankfully for him, Monteith soon understood the Glee creators weren't looking for the consummate performer, but someone newer to singing and dancing. Monteith wasn't only inexperienced outside drama. Having dropped out of high school in grade 9, he didn't exactly appear to fit the bill of his high school quarterback-turned-glee club chanteur character, Finn Hudson, either.

"It's a little surreal, playing this all-American jock when I'm Canadian, never played sports, and am 27-years-old playing high school," he said.

A new episode of Glee airs on Global tonight

The high school theme hasn't waned over the years, and the addition of performance to it commonly induces reference to wildly popular franchise High School Musical, a comparison Monteith has tired of.

"If High School Musical hadn't come first, Glee would have done better numbers," he said with a laugh.

"I think there wouldn't have been all those people going, 'Oh, well they're just trying to rip off High School Musical'."

Giving it the Dahl touch

Fantastic Mr. Fox director tried to keep film close to author's style

Movie **feature**

NED EHRBAR
for Metro Canada

Over the course of his career, Wes Anderson has established a very specific style of filmmaking — whether he wanted to or not.

"Something that I'm not quite able to regulate comes through, I suppose," he admits. "Maybe it's the color palette, the shooting style, the use of music. It ends up seeming that way, maybe because I'm making the decisions, but it's not because I wanted it to feel like another thing I did."

Director Wes Anderson adjusting his characters on the set of Fantastic Mr. Fox, an adaptation of the Roald Dahl classic children's book.

And even when he tries to get away from his previous work, like with his last film, The Darjeeling Limited, he can't escape the Wes Anderson-ness of his work.

"A lot of people said, 'I can see this is a lot like your other movies,'" he remembers. "And I felt like, but we've gone to India. We're on a train. It's totally different."

True to form, Anderson's latest, a stop-motion animation adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic The Fantastic Mr. Fox, has that certain something that makes it indisputably a Wes Anderson movie, as much as he tried to avoid it. "My goal was to try to make it as Dahl as possible," the director says.

But his touch is unmistakable — and with good reason, as Anderson felt a deep, personal connection to the story.

"This was the first book that I legally owned in our household that was my property," he says. "I still have it, and it still has a little plate in it with my name from the school book fair."

And in a more thematic sense, the titular Mr. Fox (voiced by George Clooney) fits in well with Anderson's stable of rascal father figures, from Gene Hackman in The Royal Tenenbaums to Bill Murray in The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou.

"I'm drawn to characters like that," Anderson says. "As a kid, I really liked the character of Mr. Fox because it wasn't just that he rescued his family, but that he got them into trouble in the first place. Something about that, I feel like I responded to."

Adapting the story for the screen was the easy part. What Anderson found difficult was adapting his own filmmaking style to the world of animation. "I wanted to shoot it the same way I would a live action movie, which, in the end becomes … extremely challenging."

Opening date

- The Fantastic Mr. Fox opens in movie theatres on Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Entertainment in brief

LITERARY AWARDS Kate Pullinger has won the Governor General's Literary Award for fiction for her The Mistress of Nothing. Acclaimed Toronto fiction writer M.G. Vassanji nabbed the Governor General's Award for non-fiction for A Place Within: Rediscovering India.

PEREZ HILTON The lawyer for Black Eyed Peas manager Liborio (Polo) Molina says he hopes his case with celebrity blogger Perez Hilton will be dealt with in court today. Molina faces an assault charge for allegedly striking Hilton outside a Toronto nightclub on June 22.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twilight advanced ticket sales breaking records
Cineplex Entertainment and E1 Entertainment Canada are reporting advance ticket sales for The Twilight Saga: New Moon have reached $1.5 million dollars, breaking previous records. The film opens in theatres on Friday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Twilight duo laugh off tabloid tales

Stars discuss the adjustment to spotlight, their co-star bulking up and their relationship

Movie **feature**

NED EHRBAR
for Metro Canada

With their characters entangled in such a deep, passionate love affair, it's only natural that fans would project the same emotions onto Twilight stars Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson, and no one understands that better than the actors themselves.

"I completely understand why they want us to be together and all of that," says Stewart, referencing the endless tabloid stories about their supposed real-life romance. "I just have to not think about it."

For Pattinson, it's much easier to keep from blurring the lines between work and real life. "You've always got to remember that you're being paid," he says.

As successful as the book series was, the intense amount of fame and public scrutiny that came after the release of Twilight — and hasn't let up since — caught Stewart and Pattinson more than a little off-guard.

Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart, stars of the Twilight series, how they laugh at the tabloid magazines that write about them.

But even though he's been in the tabloids on a weekly basis, Pattinson hasn't really registered the change in his public profile.

"I've been on set since Jan. 14. I've only had, like, three days off," he says. "I still don't know how my life as really changed. I still feel pretty much exactly the same."

But Pattinson admits some of the more outrageous coverage of him has made its way onto his radar. "Some magazine had on the cover that I was pregnant," he remembers with a laugh. "But without a hint of irony or anything. I didn't really know what to make of that. I don't even know if that qualifies as libelous because they can say, 'Well it's obviously fiction.'"

For Stewart, ignoring such stories was never a problem.

"The whole tabloid stuff is so obviously false to me, even before I became a part of it," she says. "It's like a ridiculous show, a soap opera. It doesn't bother me. I don't take it personally."

Or course, along with the more outrageous stories come more outrageous reactions from their diehard fans — some of whom don't fit neatly into the expected age brackets, Pattinson has found. "There's a woman who came up to me the other day, who must've been in her 90s," he says. "It's very unusual. And the older fans say exactly the same things as 12-year-old girls."

For Stewart and Pattinson, the biggest changes in dynamic for New Moon was the development of Jacob, played by Taylor Lautner, who grows into quite the eye-catching corner of the series' central love triangle. And while Lautner underwent plenty of scrutiny himself as he proved he could bulk up for the role, his co-stars were never worried. "I always knew Taylor could do that," Stewart insists. "Even seeing him walk around on set was a different experience. He's become a different person. He's just grown up."

"I didn't see Taylor until just a little bit before we started shooting," Pattinson remembers of his co-star's transformation. "So when he came back, I had the same reaction as everyone else, like, 'Jesus. Now I have to go to the gym.'"

On the web

- Watch a dramatic New Moon clip in which Edward swoops in to rescue Bella from the Volturi at metronews.ca

Mckellen and Spacey honoured

Sir Ian Mckellen and Kevin Spacey have been honoured for their contribution to the arts in London. Mckellen hard work in show business at the annual Variety Club Awards, and Spacey was presented with the British theatre award. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Photographer testifies in celeb surrogate case

Broderick

TRIAL A freelance celebrity photographer says an Ohio police chief showed him a cellphone photo of a plaster cast of the stomach of the woman who carried twins for Hollywood couple Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick.

Justin Steffman of New York testified Tuesday in the trial of Barry Carpenter, the suspended chief of Martins Ferry, where surrogate Michelle Ross lived.

Carpenter and Police Chief Chad Dojack from nearby Bridgeport are accused of scheming to sell items from Ross' home.

Steffman says Dojack offered to sell him the surrogate's address and contact information for $1,000. He says Carpenter said he had access to the plaster cast and ultrasound photos.

Dojack faces trial in January. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Perry goes unplugged

Pop singer discusses Idol, stripping down songs and future ambitions

American Idol contestants should be thankful that they have caring, sharing Ellen DeGeneres on the panel now and not Katy Perry.

The singer was a guest judge for auditions to be featured on next season's show, and she didn't pull any punches with the hopeless hopefuls.

``We all have friends or people that we've known that maybe they wanted to be a rock star, or be this or that, and no one ever told them that they can't,'' she says. ``Like, 'It's just like you weren't born with pitch, so it's not going to happen and someone needs to tell you that because 15 years later you've wasted all this time and when you could have been a doctor.' ''

They should probably take Perry's advice — the Grammy-nominee knows what it takes to be a success. Her 2008 album One of the Boys, went platinum and featured international smash hits like I Kissed a Girl and Hot N Cold.

And now she's proud to be following in the footsteps of Nirvana and Lauryn Hill by recording her own MTV Unplugged session. The CD/DVD is being released Tuesday.

Perry spoke to The Associated Press about stripping her songs bare and how her next album will make people dance.

Q What was the appeal for you in doing MTV Unplugged?

A The MTV Unplugged session was really important, it was kind of like the swan song of the whole One of the Boys record. It was the last real look I wanted to give on the record and show off some of the songs at their most simple, kind of at their most stripped down, at the skeleton, at the core of what some of them were written or how they were written.

Q Were you nervous at taking those songs that you've performed in big festivals and then sitting down in front of an intimate audience?

A No, I actually thrive in that kind of environment probably better — not better it's just a different me. The first time I started singing was in church but then when I started playing guitar I would go into the newspaper and I would find open-mike sessions and coffee shops that would let anybody sign up to play. And I would go there and I would just pull out my guitar and play.

Q I've read that the next stuff you're going to be doing will be more pop and dance-oriented, is that right?

A I'm hoping it's going to be a bit more pop. Going on the road, that's what I saw that I lacked in concert, was a little bit more movement. And that doesn't mean that I have to sacrifice the story for it.

Q It seems like a lot of your songs are about romantic insecurity and inferiority.

A Yeah, it's a fairly universal emotion of feeling inadequate in romantic situations. I think nine out of 10 people have experienced it — the jealousy, the impotence... not physical impotence, just feeling powerless in a situation. But on the other hand, there are a couple of songs on there that explore the other side, where you have the advantage in the relationship, where you possess the power. To me, it's fun to switch back and forth. It's quite often what you experience in real life. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Katy Perry

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	- 633 34 ENC2	Filmography	(7:25) *Return to the Lost World* ★★ (1993)			*The Man With Two Brains* (1983, Comedy)			*Dragnet* ★★ (1987, Comedy)	
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	294 650 40 WPCH	The Office	The Office	*Bewitched* ★★ (2005, Romance-Comedy) Nicole Kidman.				The Office	*Bewitched* ★★ (2005)	
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	- 539 42 TCM	(6) *The Harvey Girls* (1946)		*Merry Andrew* ★★★ (1958, Musical Comedy) Danny Kaye.				*Breakfast at Tiffany's* ★★★ (1961)		
	628 584 43 SPIKE	Ultimate Fighting Champ.		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		UFC 106 Cnt	The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		Talking Monkeys in Space	
	522 516 45 HIST	Outlaw Bikers (HDTV)		History's Secrets (HDTV)		Life After People		Ice Road Truckers		Ice Pilots NWT
	627 528 46 SPACE	Torchwood		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		InnerSpace (N)	Stargate SG-1 "Holiday"		Star Trek: Next Gener.	
	- - 47 AMC	(6) *Uncommon Valor* ★★ (1983, Action)			*End of Days* ★ (1999, Horror) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gabriel Byrne.					*Batman Return*
	619 525 49 TROP	Project Runway Canada		King	King	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy
	600 564 50 HGTV	Property Virgin	Unsellable	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes		Unsellable	Intervention	Property Virgin
	501 391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
	504 508 70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Business News	Commodities	Market Call Tonight		Headline	Commodities	Squeeze Play
	526 507 92 VIVA	The Closer		Cold Case "The Letter"		Mediums	Ghostly Enc.	Judging Amy		Missing
	269 350 93 APTN	Investigates	From Bella Coola to Berlin		Wings-Canada	Canadian Geographic		Great Towns	Venturing Frth	Storytellers
	- - 94 MCP	World News	News	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical
	571 581 100 MMM	Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca		Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Entourage
	570 580 101 MM	America's Best Dance Crew		Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	MuchMusic Video Awards		One Tree Hill		My Date With...
	581 566 102 MTV	The Hills	The City	The City	After	MTV Live	Sex, News-Roll	The Hills	The Hills	The City
	- - 116 TV5	(6) *Un Coeur simple* (2008)		Mixeur	Sport	TV5 Le Journal	Les Carnets du bourlingueur		Découvrir le monde	

critics' corner

Cra$h & Burn

And you thought insurance was dull. In this new series, Luke Kirby ("Slings and Arrows") plays Jimmy Burn, an ambitious insurance adjuster in Hamilton, who spends his days going after those trying to scam the system, from small-time con artists to members of organized crime. Leela Savasta ("Battlestar Galactica"), Caroline Cave ("The L Word"), Clark Johnson ("Homicide: Life on the Street") and Steve Bacic ("The Guard") also star. 6 PM on SHOW

Glee

Will (Matthew Morrison) has the glee club members split up into pairs to sing their favorite ballads, but he winds up in a sticky situation when he is forced to step in for a sick student. Finn (Cory Monteith) has dinner with Quinn's parents (guest stars Gregg Henry and Charlotte Ross). Lea Michele, Chris Colfer and Jane Lynch also star in the new episode "Ballad." 10 PM on CICT. KAYU

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Victoria's Secret model becomes first-time mom

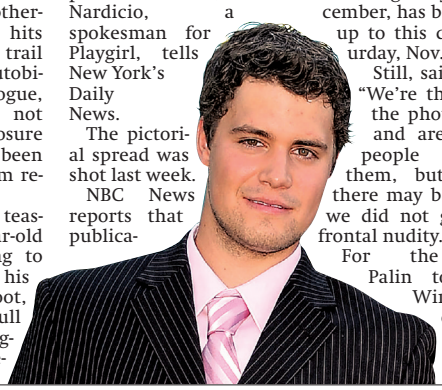
Victoria's newest secret: Model Adriana Lima and her NBA star husband have welcomed a baby girl to their family. Lima and Marko Jaric became first-time parents on Sunday in New York City. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

No full monty for baby daddy

NOT REALLY DISAPPOINTING While his almost-mother-in-law Sarah Palin hits the publicity trail this week for her autobiography Going Rogue, Levi Johnston will not be getting the exposure that originally had been promised, people.com reports.

Contrary to earlier teases that the 19-year-old would leave nothing to the imagination in his Playgirl photo shoot, "He did not give 'full frontal' as his manager Tank (Jones) reported he would," Daniel Nardicio, a spokesman for Playgirl, tells New York's Daily News.



The pictorial spread was shot last week.

NBC News reports that publication, originally set for December, has been pushed up to this coming Saturday, Nov. 21.

Still, said Nardicio, "We're thrilled with the photos we got, and are confident people will love them, but although there may be glimpses, we did not get full on frontal nudity."

For the record, Palin told Oprah Winfrey Monday that she considers Playgirl to be "porn."

She added, "It's kind of heartbreaking to see the road he is on right now."

As for the former Alaska's governor reach-out to Johnston with an invitation to Thanksgiving dinner at her house, the teen reportedly told Playgirl that this was "a nice gesture, but she didn't mean it."

The nude model also said having dinner with the Palins would be "awkward."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Richie stays mum

WHAT'S THAT YOU DIDN'T SAY? Nicole Richie may have inadvertently let out more than she wanted about her relationship with Joel Madden during a hearing in Los Angeles Monday.

While testifying against paparazzi Richie claims "stalk and harass" her, Richie's lawyer, Mark Geragos, referred to Madden as Richie's "husband" — and she didn't correct him, according to People magazine.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Giggles from Kate, but no comment

THAT'S HILARIOUS A rendering of Alex Rodriguez as a centaur gave Kate Hudson a case of the giggles, people.com reports.

When an MTV News reporter showed the actress a mock-up of her Yankees boyfriend as half-man, half-horse, the actress blushed and laughed — but refused to confirm or deny Us Weekly's reports that such a painting exists in Rodriguez's bedroom.

"What is that?" she said of the mythological image, "That's horrible."

When the reporter asked Hudson, 30, to clarify the story, she deflected. "That is the craziest thing anyone has ever asked me," she said.

"I don't indulge in those types of stories," she continued quietly, "As humorous as you might think they are."

A former fling of Rodriguez recently insisted to Us Weekly Rodriguez actually had two centaur paintings created with his likeness.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Carter can't escape IRS

THAT MAKES MORE SENSE There's a reason pop singer Aaron Carter was so crushed when he was eliminated from Dancing with the Stars last week, and according to TMZ it wasn't disappointment over losing. The website reports that documents have been filed in Los Angeles this week alleging that Carter owes the IRS more than $1 million US in back taxes.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jackson keeps private

SECRETIVE SIBLING Unlike her late brother, Janet Jackson's life hasn't been as scrutinized, notes popeater.com. Throughout her career, she's maintained an aura of mystery, successfully keeping much of her private life private, adds the website, which looks at some of the rumours that have followed the singer.

Tongues were wagging in July about her supposed break up with current man Jermaine Dupri because he didn't go to Michael Jackson's memorial. But these were recently deflated in People, which says they are planning to wed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

Spencer Pratt goes after Al Roker after their interview is cancelled, Jonathan Ross has trouble with technology and Neil Patrick Harris finally joins Twitter.

- @spencerpratt @alroker is it true you have been married 6 times? I'm sure all your wives left you when they realized you were abusive to women! Sicko!
- @wossy Wife bought me waterproof ipod to swim with. Looks exactly like my old, non-waterproof ipod shuffle. Guess which one i just took swimming?
- @ActuallyNPH My first tweet, peeps. I apologize in advance for my slow learning curve. Nice to (sort of) meet you. It's amazing how quickly 140 charac

METRO WORLD NEWS

YOU COULD WIN A PAIR OF ADVANCE SCREENING PASSES TO SEE OLD DOGS

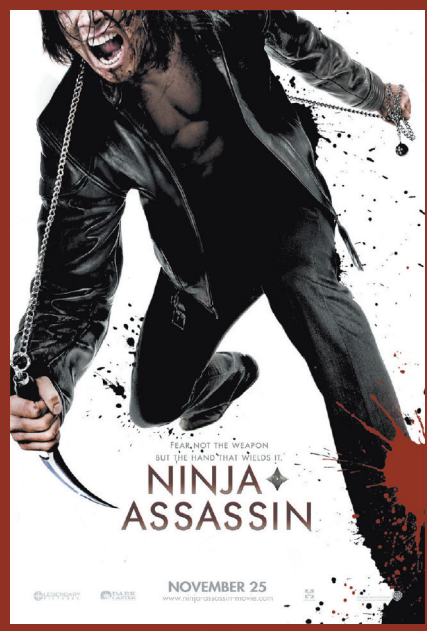
IN THEATRES NOVEMBER 25

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN! metronews.ca

No purchase necessary. Enter daily for more chances to win. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes November 18, 2009 at 11:59pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.

metro

YOU COULD WIN A DOUBLE PASS TO AN ADVANCE SCREENING OF



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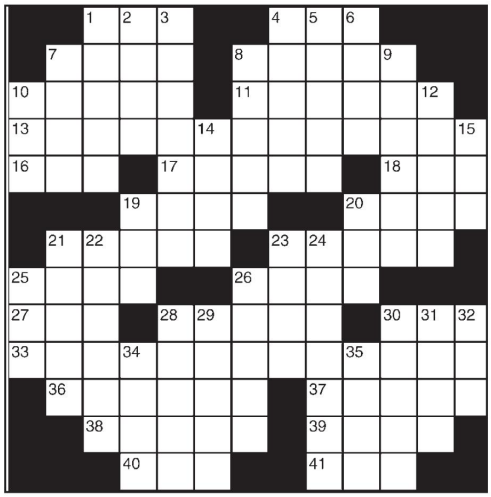
BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today High level clouds 4 C / -3 C
Thursday Sun and clouds 5 C / -6 C
Friday Sun and clouds 6 C / -5 C

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Space in between
4 Recipe measure
7 Former larva
8 Esteem
10 Artist's support
11 Greyhound alternative
13 Miscellany
16 Street address?
17 Saint-Saëns' "— Macabre"
18 "— Got a Secret"
19 Gossip
20 Platoon, for example
21 Set (down) suddenly
23 Made on a loom
25 Hodgepodge
26 Picks up the check
27 Bleachers occupant
28 Taletellers
30 — constrictor
33 Irregular impulsive moves
36 Sawbuck
37 Gear up
38 Money
39 Baseball scores
40 Obtain
41 Perched

DOWN

1 Enthusiastic enjoyment
2 "Planet of the —"
3 One who champions a cause
4 Freebies
5 Loosen
6 Hole in the head?
7 Twosome
8 Lacked
9 Wisconsin city
10 Recede
12 Kline or Spacey
14 Dealer's foe (Var.)
15 Collection
19 Singing partners
20 Skin-damaging rays, for short
21 Braid
22 Doorframe top
23 "Star —"
24 Seafood appetizers
25 Vacationing
26 Chaplain
28 Jousting need
29 Not moving
30 Principal force
31 Elevator name
32 Cleo's slayer
34 Like a bug in a rug
35 Blue hue

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	9		7		1	5		
	7			8	6			
		1					3	
		5			2			1
6								9
4			3			8		
	8					7		
			5	2			1	
		9	4		7		8	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

O	L	D	S		B	E	T		I	B	I	D
R	O	O	T		A	A	H		N	O	D	E
T	U	N	A		C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N
S	T	A	T	I	O	N		G	U	L	L	Y
			U	R	N		F	R	I			
B	R	I	S	K		O	R	A	T	I	O	N
O	E	R			T	W	O			N	I	N
O	V	A	T	I	O	N		U	N	C	L	E
			I	N	N		U	S	E			
E	M	I	T	S		E	L	A	T	I	O	N
V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N		H	O	M	E
E	D	E	N		D	N	A		E	W	E	R
R	E	D	S		S	S	R		R	A	N	D

5	8	3	4	7	9	2	1	6
1	6	9	3	8	2	4	7	5
2	4	7	1	6	5	9	3	8
9	7	1	2	3	8	6	5	4
8	2	5	6	4	7	3	9	1
6	3	4	5	9	1	8	2	7
3	1	2	8	5	4	7	6	9
4	9	6	7	1	3	5	8	2
7	5	8	9	2	6	1	4	3

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Smoked Trout and Watercress Open Sandwich

INGREDIENTS:
8 small-sized eggs
1 3/4 oz (50 g) watercress
4 tbsp (60 mL) mayonnaise
1 tbsp (15 mL) lemon juice
8 thick slices rye bread
3 skinless smoked trout fillets, about 2 2/3 oz (75 g) each, flaked

METHOD:
1. Simmer eggs in boiling water 1 1/2–2 minutes, depending on whether you prefer them slightly soft or medium boiled. Plunge into cold water and leave to cool.
2. While eggs are cooking, set aside a few watercress sprigs for garnishing, then roughly chop rest, discarding any very thick stems. Mix chopped watercress, mayonnaise and lemon juice together.
3. Spread watercress mixture evenly over one side of each slice of rye bread, then top with flakes of smoked trout. Carefully peel shells off eggs, then cut each in half and arrange two egg halves on top of each open sandwich. Season with ground black pepper and garnish with reserved sprigs of watercress.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You don't have to be dishonest but you do have to keep information that might be useful to those who envy your success.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You are about to make a hugely important decision, one that could transform your life. No wonder you look worried. Change is good for you.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
There seems to be some tension in the air at the moment and it is unlikely to pass until the Sun changes signs on the 22nd.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You may like to think you are a logical person but you do in fact rely on the emotional side of your nature a lot. Don't think – feel.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You may think you can do as you please and get away with it, and maybe you can, in the short-term, but over time everything evens itself out.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The choices you make over the next few days will have a huge impact on the direction your life takes over the next few months, so make them wisely.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Take the time and make the effort to set the record straight and point out to your critics where your remarks have been misquoted.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
What happens over the next two or three days will bring to light all manner of hidden things, but you've got nothing to hide – well, nothing too bad.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Don't be surprised if you find yourself hesitating for no apparent reason today. But your sixth sense tells you it might be wise to hang back. For now.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
The timing of meetings and social activities may have to be changed at the last moment today, but the changes will work in your favor.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
What you gain when the Sun changes signs on the 22nd will make up for anything you may have lost in recent weeks, so keep your spirits up.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A relationship can and must be revitalized but it won't happen until you stop looking back at what happened in the past.

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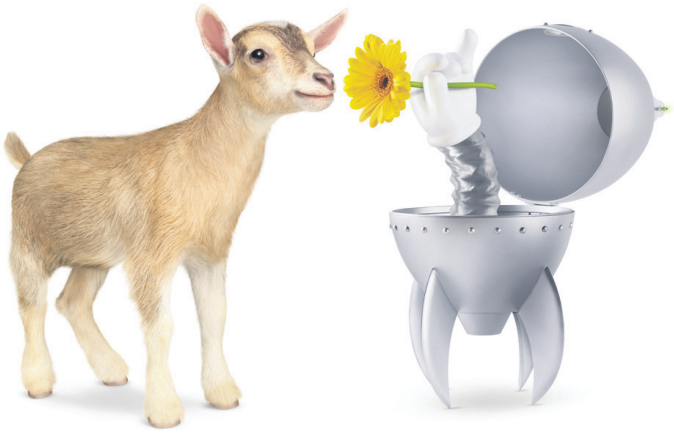

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